

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5, 9, 11 and 13-16 are pending in the present application. The Examiner finally rejected claims 3, 5, 9, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gruenbaum (5565641) in view of Cakewalk User's Manual. Applicant files herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to withdraw the final rejection and submits this Amendment. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 3, 5, 9 and 11 and cancels claims 13-16 without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the present invention, an electronic musical instrument is connected to a computer keyboard. This connection provides many advantages. A first advantage is that a user can assign functions to the keys of the computer keyboard. In this manner, the user can begin a function by simply touching one key on the computer keyboard rather than a number of operators on the electronic musical instrument. Fig. 10 of the present application illustrates one way in which a key on the computer keyboard can be assigned a function module such as voice or style. Each key has a position code and, once a function module is assigned to a key, the present invention stores the correspondence between the position code of the key and the function module in a module table (see, e.g., Fig. 15B and specification at page 17, lines 11-14.)

A second advantage is that the user can also assign characters, symbols or numerical values to the keys of the computer keyboard. Fig. 7 illustrates one way in which a key on the computer keyboard can be assigned a character, symbol or numerical value. When an assignment is made, a character or ASCII code or numerical data corresponding to the position code of the key is determined. The correspondence between the position code and the ASCII code or the like is stored in a conversion table (see, e.g., Fig. 15A and specification at page 13, lines 6-12.)

Thus, a given key can be assigned to a function as well as character, symbol or numerical value. Fig. 8 illustrates one process when such a key is depressed. The position code of the depressed key is determined. Then, based on the module table as illustrated in FIG. 15B, the module corresponding to the position code of the depressed key is launched. Also, based on the conversion table in Fig. 15A, the ASCII code or the like corresponding to the position code of the

depressed key is delivered to the launched function module (see, e.g., specification at page 15, lines 11-17). The delivery may allow, for example, the ASCII code to be displayed in the screen view of the function module.

In contrast, neither of the cited references discloses delivering an inputted character, symbol or numerical value to the function module. Gruenbaum and Cakewalk disclose assigning a function to a key but, once that key is depressed, only the function is launched. There is no disclosure or suggestion that an inputted character, symbol or numerical value corresponding to the depressed key is delivered to the function. That is, Gruenbaum and Cakewalk fail to disclose “when one of the function modules is assigned to the operated key or key region, said execution device causes the input character, the input symbol or the input numerical value to be delivered to the function module assigned to the operated key or key region” as recited in amended claim 3. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 and amended claims 5, 9 and 11 (which have similar recitations) are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Gruenbaum and Cakewalk, either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons set forth above.

Applicant herewith submits two Japanese publications (cited in a Japanese office action) and translated abstracts in an accompanying IDS. The publications do not disclose at least the recitation set forth above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any

required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032012500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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